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Atty. Docket No.: P70481US0

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 7, before line 16, insert the following new paragraph:

--Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.--.

On page 7, please amend the last paragraph beginning on line 31, as follows:

--Fig. 2 shows an embodiment of the coupling device 9 comprising a first connector part 10, a second connector part 11, and a disengagement means 12 or releasable locking member. ~~The,~~ the coupling device 9 ~~connecting~~ connects the probe 3 with the gas conducting tube 6 and the liquid conducting tube 7. In this embodiment of the present invention, the first connector part 10 is provided with two tapered conical portions 13, 14, whereas the second connector part is provided with two corresponding tapered

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bores 16a, 16b. The connecting portions, i.e. the portions 13, 14 and the bores 16a, 16b may be conical as suggested in the embodiments shown in the drawings, or they may be non-circular, e.g. polygonal, in section. Also, they may have a constant or a varying cross-section and they may have arched as well as rectilinear engagement surfaces. In the present embodiment, the portions 13, 14 and the bores 16a, 16b together constitute two luer lock connectors for connecting the probe 3 with the tubes 6, 7.--

On page 8, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 13, as follows:

Fig. 3 shows the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 attached to the first connector part 10. Before use of the coupling device 9, the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 in the form of a sleeve or a nut is mounted on the first connector part 10. The disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 is kept in place on the first connector part 10 with respect to movement along the longitudinal axis of and is rotatably mounted about such longitudinal axis by means of a shoulder portion 17 and a resilient member 15 in such a way that the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 engages with the first connector part 10 by moving the disengagement means or releasable

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locking member 12 in the direction shown in Fig. 2, the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 sliding over a projection 15a of the resilient member 15, the projection 15a of the resilient member 15 being pushed slightly inwards during this movement, and, subsequently, the projection 15a moving outwards into engagement with a stepped portion 19 of the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12. At the opposite end of the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12, an engagement ~~means~~ structure 18 is provided between a central portion 20 and the end of the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12. The engagement ~~means~~ structure 18 of the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12 has such dimensions that a step 20a is formed at the transition to the central portion 20. The step 20a abuts on the shoulder portion 17 on the first connector part 10. In the present embodiment, the engagement ~~means~~ structure 18 of the ~~disengagement means 20~~ releasable locking member 12 is provided in the form of internal threads 18.--

Please amend the specification text from line 1 of page 9 to line 28 of page 11 as follows:

--Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the second connector part 11. In the present embodiment, a disk 23 disposed at the end

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of the second connector part 11 facing the first connector part 10 has a circular shape, thereby allowing the attachment of a second ~~an~~ engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 to also have a circular shape. Therefore, engagement ~~means~~ structures can be implemented through which a rotatable and consequently much less physically demanding mounting of the first connector part 10 on and dismounting of this connector part from the second connector part 11 is possible.

Holes 26, 27 are provided in the circular disk 23 of the second connector part 11 in order to enable flow through the coupling device 9. In the embodiment of Fig. 4, ~~said the~~ holes 26, 27 are arranged with a small spacing, e.g. less than 10%, preferably 7% or less of the diameter of the disk (i.a. dependent on the thickness of the tube walls), and furthermore a recess 25 is disposed in the engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 of the second connector part 11 to make room for the holes 26, 27. This provides the advantage of a reduction in size of the circular disk 23 of the second connector part resulting in an overall smaller size of the coupling device 9.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the first connector part 10, whereas Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the disengagement means or releasable locking member 12. Similar to the second connector part 11, a circular disk 24 is provided at the end of the first

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connector part 10 facing the second connector part 11, allowing the mounting and rotation of the also circular ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 on the first connector part 10.

When the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 is attached to the first connector part 10, the engagement ~~means~~ structure 18 of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 corresponds to engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 of the second connector part 11. In the present embodiment, the engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 of the second connector part 11 is provided in the form of external threads 21. In an embodiment (not shown), the engagement ~~means~~ structure of the second connector part 11 and the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 is provided in the form of a bayonet coupling, e.g. including one track portion extending obliquely with respect to the axial direction of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member and a projection, e.g. in the form of a pin member on the second connector part.

Thus, when connecting the first connector part 10 with the second connector part 11, the connection portions on the first connector part 10 engage into the second connector part 11 through a rotating operation of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member, thereby allowing the connecting portions 13, 14 of the first connector part 10 to more readily be properly connected and/or

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disconnected with the connecting portions 16a, 16b of the second connector part 11.

In the embodiment shown in the drawings, the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 is provided with a handle ~~means~~ 22 to ease the rotating operation of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 when connecting the first connector part 10 with the second connector part 11 and during the disconnecting operation.

Alternatively, the first connector part 10 and the second connector part 11 may be initially brought together before engagement of the engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 of the first connector part in the engagement ~~means~~ structure 21 of the second connector part, the first connector part 10 and the second connector part 11 thus engaging in a loose connection, allowing the user to let go of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 and subsequently get a firmer grip of the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12, the purpose being to enable the user to more readily rotate the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member to connect and/or disconnect the first connector part 10 with the second connector part 11.

The invention should not be regarded as being limited to the embodiment shown and described in the above description but

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various modifications may be carried out without departing from the scope of the claims.

For instance, each connector part may be provided with more than two connecting portions. Furthermore, the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member may be mounted on the second connector part, and the design of the connecting portions may be varied, as it is e.g. conceivable to have one female and one male luer lock connector on each connector part. Also, either the male or the female luer lock connector may be attached to the probe 3.

The connecting portions 16a, 16b, 13, 14 are not necessarily of a luer lock type, they may instead include two disks, each with two holes and further, each hole may be enclosed by sealing members. In such a design, the holes may be pushed together and sealed by activating the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member.

Alternatively, the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member 12 ~~the disengagement means~~ is e.g. applied only when disconnecting the first connector part 10 from the second connector part 11. Thus, the first connector part 10 and the second connector part 11 may be engaged into each other by just pushing the two connector parts 10, 11 into each other, without activating the engagement ~~means~~ structures 21, 18. However, as in the embodiments

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described above, the first connector part 10 and the second connector part 11 are disengaged by activating the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member. This alternative provides for a faster assembly of the coupling device 9, the user still being able to readily disengage the first connector part 10 from the second connector part 11.

As a further alternative, the ~~disengagement means~~ releasable locking member may be formed integrally with the first or the second connector part, e.g. as an arm hingedly connected with the first or the second connector part and comprising a hook section engaging the other connector part. By activating the arm, the first and the second connector parts are substantially pulled out of each other.

On page 12, after the last line, please insert the following paragraph:

--The invention being thus described, it will be apparent that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be recognized by one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.--.